

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04006 271602Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4006

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ: US CONTACTS WITH CONGO AND ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 65136; B) STATE 93336

1. RECENT US COMMUNICATION WITH TWO OF ZAIRE'S NEIGHBORS -- CONGO AND ANGOLA -- RAISES QUESTION OF DEGREE TO WHICH WE SHOULD KEEP GOZ INFORMED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS HERE.

2. CONGO: IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, WE KEPT GOZ GENERALLY INFORMED OF PROBLEMS TOWARD NORMALIZATION IN THE PAST, NOTABLY THE ABORTED CONTACTS OF 1974-75. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE IN OUR PRESENT EFFORTS. THE GOZ HAS AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN OUR RELATIONS ACROSS THE RIVER AND -- IN VIEW OF THE RUMORS RE IMPENDING NORMALIZATION THAT ARE BOUND TO PERSIST -- I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP MOBUTU ACCURATELY INFORMED OF BOTH OUR INTENTIONS AND THE GENERAL STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT AT SOME POINT WE MAY WANT TO CALL ON THE GOZ FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

3. ANGOLA: THIS IS A MORE DELICATE ONE TO HANDLE. MY CONCERN IS THAT MOBUTU, ALREADY UNHAPPY ABOUT OUR LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS TO THE SHABA INVASION, NOT DEVELOP ANY UNNECESSARY SUSPICIONS
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OR ILLUSIONS CONCERNING OUR DEALINGS WITH HIS ADVERSARY. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, I INFORMED HIM OF OUR POSITION ON NORMALIZATION WITH ANGOLA FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH GARBA. LAGOS HAS NOW BRIEFED GARBA ON OUR LATEST CONTACTS IN NEW YORK WITH THE ANGOLANS. WHILE THIS WAS PRIMARILY TO PREPARE GARBA FOR HIS FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN LUANDA, IT IS POSSIBLE THE MATTER WILL COME UP IN HIS TALKS WITH MOBUTU AS WELL. IF THE DEPART-

MENT AGREES WE SHOULD INFORM MOBUTU OF OUR LATEST CONTACTS, I WOULD SUGGEST IT BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REASSURE MOBUTU THAT ZAIRE REMAINS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN OUR EXPLORATION OF NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRA AND THAT, BY MAKING THIS CLEAR TO THE ANGOLANS, WE ARE IN EFFECT TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THEIR COOPERATION IN NIGERIA'S MEDIATION EFFORT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS.
CUTLER

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